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RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1959

RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the public health of the District during 1959, which is in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 1/60 dated 8th January, 1960.

Statistical information is contained in the body of the report, which is followed by that of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

It gives me great pleasure to record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from the staff and my colleagues at all times. I am especially grateful to Miss Grace Boswell, clerk/secretary in the East Wilts M.O.H.'s Office for her invaluable assistance with the compilation of this report, more particularly on this occasion.

I have the honour to be.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RODERICK MACKAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

28th July, 1960.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	R. MACKAY, M.D., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	I. L. FISHER, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., Certified Meat and Food Inspector.
Additional Public Health Inspector	R. WILKINSON, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
Rodent Operator	R. H. COOMBS

The Medical Officer of Health acts also in that capacity for the other three constituent authorities of the East Wilts United Districts, viz. Marlborough M.B., Pewsey R.D., and Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D., and is responsible for the public health duties imposed by statute upon his office. He holds, in addition, the appointment of assistant County Medical Officer and in this respect carries out, on behalf of the County Council, duties in connection with the welfare services for which it is mainly responsible.

The Senior Public Health Inspector, together with his assistant carries out within the District, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, with whose duties those of the Public Health Inspector are complementary, the statutory duties which are placed upon the authority generally in connection with the public health.

The duties of the Public Health Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health are satisfactorily integrated.

Matters of public health are normally dealt with by the General Purposes Committee and Housing Committee of the Rural District.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	....	....	....	....	....	63455
Number of Parishes	....	....	....	....	....	17
Population in mid-1959 as estimated by the Registrar						
General	....	....	....	....	....	24530
Number of inhabited houses	....	....	....	....	....	4033
Number of new houses erected in 1959 :—						
By Private Enterprise	....	....	....	....	....	58
By Local Authority	....	....	....	....	....	75
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	....	£329240
Sum represented by Penny Rate (estimated)	....	....	....	....	....	£1320

VITAL STATISTICS

					M.	F.	Total
Live Births	....	....	....	....	252	244	496
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	246	234	480
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	6	10	16
Live Birth Rate per 1000 population							23.6
Still Births	....	....	....	....	3	3	6
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	3	3	6
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total Live and Still Births	....	....	....	....			11.9
Total Live and Still Births	....	....	....	....	255	247	502
Deaths of Infants under one year :—							
Total	....	....	....	....	6	4	10
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	6	4	10
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Infant Death Rate per 1000 live births	....	....	....	....			20.2
Early neo-natal mortality rate (under one week)	....	....	....	....			12.1
Maternal Deaths	....	....	....	....			nil
Number of Deaths from all causes	....	....	....	....	83	62	145
Death Rate per 1000 population	....	....	....	....			9.9

NOTE :

The number of births, still-births and deaths are those registered during 1959 after adjustment has been made for inward and outward transfers.

BIRTH RATE, INFANT DEATH RATE, TOTAL DEATH RATE, 1959

	Amesbury R.D.	Administrative County	England and Wales
Birth Rate per 1000 population	23.6	18.77	16.5
Death Rate per 1000 population	9.9	10.64	11.6
Death Rate of Infants under one year per 1000 live births	20.2	20.97	22.0

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT, 1950—59

Year	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Population*	21860	25470	24430	24080	26970	24770	25190	24890	24680	24530
Live Births	389 17.8	408 16.0	380 15.6	420 17.4	408 15.1	424 17.1	475 18.9	457 18.4	483 19.6	496 20.2
Still Births	11 27.5	8 19.2	8 20.6	8 18.7	8 19.2	13 20.7	20 40.4	1 2.1	4 8.3	6 11.9
Total Deaths	130 5.9	141 5.5	147 6.0	110 4.6	107 4.0	118 4.8	142 5.6	136 5.5	144 5.8	145 9.9
Infant Deaths	10 25.7	8 19.6	8 21.1	16 23.8	8 19.6	9 21.2	7 14.7	16 35.0	9 18.6	10 20.2
Tuberculosis Deaths	7 0.3	1 0.0	3 0.1	1 0.0	0 0.0	1 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	1 0.0	0 0.0
Cancer Deaths	17 0.8	28 1.1	25 1.0	18 0.7	18 0.7	16 0.6	27 1.1	26 1.0	28 1.1	28 1.1
Pneumonia Deaths	5 0.2	7 0.3	10 0.4	8 0.3	4 0.1	2 0.1	5 0.2	3 0.1	6 0.2	2 0.1

*Includes armed forces

N.B. The corresponding rate is given together with the figures on which it is based. With the exception of the infant death rate which is calculated per 1,000 live births, and the still birth rate per 1,000 total births, the rates given above are computed per 1,000 of the population. The birth and death rates are *not corrected* in this table for area comparability.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of infectious diseases notified during 1959 in the Rural District was 234 of which 180 were in respect of measles, 13 for scarlet fever and 10 for dysentery.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were seven notifications in respect of pulmonary tuberculosis and three for other forms of the disease.

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION

Immunization against diphtheria, whooping cough and poliomyelitis are carried out at welfare clinics and at special sessions under the direct control of the County Medical Officer by the County medical staff, and by general practitioners who also perform all vaccinations against smallpox.

Three hundred and forty five infants under one year old were inoculated against diphtheria in 1959 in the Rural District. The number of live births for the same year was 496.

The total number primarily immunized against diphtheria in 1959 in the Rural District was 510.

The following numbers were immunized during the last ten years :

<i>Age Group (Years)</i>	<i>Years</i>										Total
	1950	'51	'52	'53	'54	'55	'56	'57	'58	'59	
Under 5	172	360	268	190	350	202	297	288	389	471	2987
5-15	42	48	55	40	45	57	53	54	41	39	474
Totals	214	408	323	230	395	259	350	342	430	510	3461

The total number of primary smallpox vaccinations performed during the year in the Rural District was 448 of which 387 were under one year of age.

Details of Water Supply, Sewerage and Food Supervision, etc., are given in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1959

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	7	1	10
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food poisoning	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	4
Measles	93	40	5	2	24	13	1	2	-	-	-	-	180
Pneumonia	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	1	2	5	13
Whooping cough	3	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Pulmonary tuberculosis	-	1	2	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	7
Other Forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3
Totals	99	48	8	3	30	14	10	4	1	2	9	6	234

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS), 1959

Disease	Total	Age (years)											
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-
Dysentery	10	-	-	2	1	-	4	2	-	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food poisoning	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-
Measles	180	6	19	15	26	22	74	17	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia	7	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
Scarlet fever	13	1	-	-	2	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	9	-	-	1	1	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	224	7	19	18	32	25	95	19	-	3	-	3	3

CAUSES OF DEATH

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN, 1959

		M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5	Whooping cough	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8	Measles	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	—	2
11	„ „ lung bronchus	11	—	11
12	„ „ breast	—	—	—
13	„ „ uterus	—	1	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	6	6	12
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	2	2
16	Diabetes	—	2	2
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	9	11
18	Coronary disease, angina	17	11	28
19	Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
20	Other heart disease	9	10	19
21	Other circulatory disease	4	3	7
22	Influenza	1	1	2
23	Pneumonia	1	1	2
24	Bronchitis	4	3	7
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	3	1	4
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	8	18
33	Motor vehicle accidents	5	1	6
34	All other accidents	2	—	2
35	Suicide	—	—	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Total of all causes		83	62	145

RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my eleventh Annual Report of work carried out by the Public Health Department of the Council during the year 1959.

The tables and particulars in the Report are in conformity with requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 1/60 dated 8th January, 1960.

Once again I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their help and co-operation given during the year.

It also gives me great pleasure to place on record my appreciation of the help given by the Medical Officer of Health in the discharge of our joint responsibilities, and the assistance afforded by the Engineer and Surveyor in the compilation of the information on water supplies, drainage and sewerage, and refuse collection and disposal throughout the District, and to express my thanks to my colleagues in other Departments for their co-operation at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

I. L. FISHER,

Senior Public Health Inspector,

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

NUMBER AND NATURE OF VISITS OR INSPECTIONS DURING 1959

GENERAL SANITATION

Number of Inspections re Water Supply	....	....	66	
Number of Inspections re Drainage of Property	....	....	1026	
Number of Inspections re Keeping of Animals	....	....	36	
Number of Inspections of Fried Fish Shops	....	....	7	
Number of Inspections of Moveable Dwellings	....	....	156	
Number of Inspections under Factories Act	....	....	43	
Number of Inspections of Outworkers Premises	....	....	1	
Number of Inspections of Bakehouses	....	....	16	
Number of Inspections re Refuse Collection and Disposal			8	
Number of Inspections under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	....	....	13	
Number of Inspections under Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order	....	....	28	
Number of Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	....	....	200	
Number of Visits re Sampling of Water Supplies		....	204	
Number of Visits re Sampling of Sewage Effluent		....	22	1826

HOUSING

Number of Houses inspected under Public Health Act	18		
Number of Visits paid to above Houses (Reinspections)	72	90	
<hr/>			
Number of Houses inspected under Housing Acts	113		
Number of Visits paid to above Houses (Reinspections)	670	783	
<hr/>			
Number of Houses inspected re Overcrowding	....	128	
Number of Visits paid to above Houses (Reinspections)	2	130	
<hr/>			
Number of Miscellaneous Housing Visits	....	134	
Number of Houses inspected re Verminous Conditions	10		
Number of Visits paid to above Houses	2	12
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Number of Houses inspected under Rent Act	11	1160
Number of Property Owners/Agents and Builders interviewed	301	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Number of Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease	....	23	
Number of Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	....	86	109
<hr/>			
			3095

Number of Visits to Poultry Packing Station	....	....	242	
Number of Visits to Knackers Yard	....	....	11	
Number of Visits to Butchers' Shops	....	....	17	
Number of Visits to Grocers	....	....	42	
Number of Visits to Dairies and Milkshops	....	....	28	
Number of Visits to Ice Cream Premises	....	....	37	
Number of Visits to Food Preparing Premises	....	....	22	
Number of Miscellaneous Food Visits	....	....	15	3509

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

Inspections of the Factories within the District have shown that conditions are generally satisfactory. Any defects found were of a minor character, and by the end of the year most had been remedied as the result of informal action. It was not necessary for the Council to serve any Notice to rectify any contraventions of the Acts.

The following is a list of Factories in the District :—

Bakers and Confectioners	....	....	6
Engineering, including Garages	....	....	23
Electricity Generating	....	....	1
Joinery, woodworking	....	....	10
Testing of Flow Meters	....	....	1
Milk Pasteurising	....	....	1
Laundering	....	....	2
Corn Milling	....	....	1
Manufacture of Explosives	....	....	1
Vehicle Painting	....	....	1
Tailoring	....	....	1
Aircraft Testing	....	....	1
Instrument Repairs	....	....	1
Cine Film Camera Testing	....	....	1
Cinematograph Film Manufacture	....	....	1
Oil Gas	....	....	1
Fruit Juice and Bottle Washing	....	....	1
Upholstery and Furniture Repairs	2
Poultry Processing and Packing	2
Knackers Yards	1

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OUTWORKERS

The tendency for the number of outworkers in the District to decrease during the last few years has continued, and during 1959 only two such persons were notified to the Department by other Authorities, both being engaged in the manufacture of knitted wear. Inspections were made of the premises, but no action was found to be necessary. No outworkers are employed by the factories within the District.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN

None of the ten houses treated for the eradication of vermin during the year (all for fleas) were heavily infested, and in all cases satisfactory results were achieved following the use of Proprietary Insecticides with residual D.D.T. During the Summer months, many requests were received in connection with the destruction of wasps' nests. There is some doubt as to whether this is a public health function, but the positions of these nests is sometimes such that extreme care must be taken as to the method to be employed to deal with them. In all these cases assistance or advice was given by the Department.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Refuse Collection System has continued to work satisfactorily throughout the year, collections being made once weekly in the larger villages and once fortnightly in the smaller ones. All refuse collected in the District is disposed of at the Council's Refuse Tip at Porton Firs.

The separation of saleable materials, such as paper, metal and rags, is carried out at the Refuse Tip, and these articles, together with Salvaged Waste Paper, have been sold to Contractors. The receipts from this source have shown a considerable increase during the year.

A new 18 cubic yards Diesel refuse collection freighter, of the rear loading type, was purchased during the year. The Council now owns two vehicles of this type, and they have been found to be more hygienic in operation than the side loading vehicles previously used.

HOUSING

The erection of a sufficient number of houses to satisfy the heavy demand for satisfactory housing accommodation is a matter which has constantly been of the greatest importance to the Council. Whilst the number of houses erected by the Council grows steadily each year, and in the year under review 75 houses were completed with a further 61 houses in course of erection at the end of the year, the number of applicants on the Non-Priority Housing List indicates that the need for further housing accommodation is still very great. The decision of the War Department to demolish large numbers of huts of pre-1914 vintage, which cannot be considered satisfactory when judged on present day standards, has added considerably to the task, and the speed with which the Council is able to erect houses is affected by the difficulties experienced in obtaining suitable sites in certain parts of the District and by the labour force available for the work.

In addition to the houses erected by the Council during the year, 58 houses or bungalows were erected by private enterprise and 60 more were in the course of erection at the end of the year. These figures are substantially greater than those reported last year. Six units of

accommodation were gained as the result of the conversion of a large house into flats, and one unit was lost due to the conversion of two houses into one.

Although the work of dealing with the properties included in the Council's Five Year Slum Clearance Programme continued throughout the year, some slowing down in the Parish of Shrewton, in which the greatest number of properties were scheduled for consideration was necessary. The commencement of the erection of further houses in this Parish was delayed until such time as it was known that their completion would coincide with the Sewerage Scheme now being constructed. The re-housing of persons living in condemned properties in Shrewton must, therefore, be delayed until the houses are erected. In other Parishes only a few individual properties remained to be dealt with at the end of 1959, and it is anticipated that all the properties originally included in the Slum Clearance Programme will have been considered by the end of 1960. The re-housing of persons still living in condemned properties is a matter which has constantly engaged the Council's attention.

The improvement and modernisation of houses has continued steadily throughout the year. The number of applications dealt with over the last few years has been fairly constant, and now averages about 30 a year. Since the coming into operation of the Act, a total of 159 houses have been improved and modernised with the aid of a grant, and eleven additional units of accommodation have been provided as the result of the conversion of larger buildings into two or more dwellings. Work on 38 houses was in progress at the end of the year, and applications were approved in respect of a further six houses.

A new form of grant was made available during the year with the coming into operation of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, and this provided for a fixed amount of grant to be paid in respect of providing a dwelling with all or any of five standard amenities specified in the Act. This new Standard Grant has not proved too popular in this District, and only eight applications had been made to, and approved by, the Council by the end of the year, works at two of these being completed. In a rural area, such as this, the provision of these amenities nearly always requires some structural addition to the house and the provision of a drainage system, not in existence hitherto, to a septic tank. The difference between the cost of the work and the amount of Standard Grant which can be paid is so great that the applicant almost invariably considers it to be a sounder economic proposition to carry out such additional works as are necessary to make the property eligible for a Discretionary Grant. This is also an advantage from the Council's point of view for, although a larger grant is payable, properties of much higher standard result. There are, however, certain types of property which, although they are structurally sound and are likely to remain satisfactory for more than the period of time specified in the Act, are so designed that they cannot reasonably be

brought to a higher standard, and in these cases the Standard Grant can be of great value.

Towards the end of the year the Council found it necessary to apply to the Courts for a Nuisance Order, under the Public Health Act, 1936, due to an Owner's failure to comply with Abatement Notices served upon him to repair the roofs of four Cottages. The Owner admitted this default, and the Court made a Nuisance Order for the necessary works to be carried out within a period of 42 days. These works had not been carried out by the end of the year, although the period within which they were to be completed had not expired at that time.

The following table shows the action taken by the Department under the Housing and Public Health Acts during the year :—

(i)	Inspected for housing defects under Public Health Act	18
(ii)	Inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts	113
(iii)	Number of dwellings so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	21
(iv)	Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	120
	Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action	62
Action under Statutory Powers		
A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12, Housing Act, 1957.		
(i)	Number of dwellings where Notices were served re- quiring defects to be remedied	—
(ii)	Number of dwellings made fit after service of formal Notices	
(a)	By owners	—
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	—
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts		
(i)	Number of dwellings where formal notices were served	7
(ii)	Number of dwellings made fit as result of formal notices	
(a)	By owners	11
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	—
C. Proceedings under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, and Section 16, Housing Act, 1957		
(i)	Number of Demolition Orders made	9
(ii)	Number of houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders	*20
(iii)	Number of Undertakings accepted	2
(iv)	Number of Undertakings completed	1
D. Proceedings under Sections 42, 43, 46 and 48, Housing Act, 1957.		
(i)	Number of houses in Clearance Area upon which Demolition Orders were made	—

(ii)	Number of houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders	.....	—
(iii)	Number of houses in Clearance Area which have been retained as temporary accommodation	.....	—
E. Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936, Section 3, Housing Act, 1949, Section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, and Sections 17, 18 and 27, Housing Act, 1957.			
(i)	Number of dwellings where Closing Orders were made		—
(ii)	Number of dwellings closed as result of Closing Orders or Undertakings by owners	.....	—
(iii)	Number of dwellings where Closing Orders were cancelled in consequence of premises being made fit	.....	—
F. Proceedings under Section 76, Housing Act, 1957.			
(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding discovered during year		4
(ii)	Number of cases of overcrowding abated during year		3

*Includes nine houses demolished voluntarily or in anticipation of Demolition Orders.

RODENT CONTROL

The control measures recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are closely followed by the Rodent Operator under the supervision of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

The systematic survey of the District, which has been continued throughout the year, has shown that the general situation is satisfactory, and only four major infestations were found. Three of these, two by rats and one by mice, were on agricultural premises, and in each case treatment was effected by the Council's Rodent Operator, the cost of this work being recovered from the occupier of the land.

The service afforded by the Council is undoubtedly appreciated by the residents of the District, and is reflected in the number of complaints, regarding infestations by rats and/or mice, received by the Department. The prompt investigation of all complaints received had enabled treatment to be effected before the infestations have been allowed to become other than of a minor nature, and, although further treatments were necessary in a few cases, the work carried out was generally very satisfactory.

Following the withdrawal, on the 31st March, 1960, of the Contract Service operated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, a number of the Ministry's former employees decided to carry on with this work under their own auspices. Close liaison has been established with these Contractors, and regular notifications of Contracts which they have obtained in respect of agricultural holdings and business

premises are made to the Department. The receipt of this information is of great value in the organisation of the survey work to be undertaken, and allows more attention to be given to farms which are not the subject of any Contract. Inspections of these premises revealed that the occupiers are generally very conscious of their responsibilities under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and are taking effective measures to destroy rats and mice, thereby keeping their lands free from infestation. In a number of instances, the Rodent Operator has given advice as to the best methods to be employed to deal with specific cases.

The following table sets out the work carried out by the Rodent Operator during the period 31st March to 31st December, 1959 :—

	<i>L.A.</i>	<i>Dwell- ing Houses</i>	<i>All other</i>	<i>Total of Cols. 1 2 & 3</i>	<i>Agric- ultural</i>
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	16	4033	163	4212	127
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification	—	51	13	64	4
(b) Survey under the Act	4	843	35	882	40
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	5	—	5	—
3. Total inspections carried out, including reinspections	12	916	49	977	45
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. 2) which were found to be infested by :					
Major	—	—	—	—	2
Rats :					
Minor	3	98	13	114	18
Major	1	—	—	1	1
Mice :					
Minor	—	9	3	12	1
5. Number of infested properties (in Sect. 2) treated by the L.A.	4	89	9	102	4
6. Total treatments carried out, including retreatments	12	108	10	130	4
7. Number of Notices served under Section 4 of the Act					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a Notice under Section 4 of the Act.	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of " Block " control schemes carried out			N I L		

WATER SUPPLY

REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY

Following the completion of the scheme to afford a supply of piped water to the Parishes in the Bourne Valley, the Council decided to seek the consent of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the construction of the Castle Barn Reservoir and for the laying of the Avon Valley Distribution Mains to complete their programme for providing a supply of mains water to every Parish in the District. The Ministry's consent to the preparation of detailed plans and Bills of Quantities was received in July, 1959, and the Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed to proceed with this work.

During the year negotiations took place between the Council and the War Department with a view to affording a bulk supply of water to the War Department Reservoir at Knighton Down, and in connection with the taking over by the Council of the War Department Water Installations from Bulford to Figheldean, via Brigmerston.

Although agreement was reached with the Salisbury and Wilton Rural District Council as to supplying water in bulk for the Hamlet of Ford from the Council's mains, the Salisbury and Wilton Rural District Council subsequently informed the Council that they did not wish to take up this offer.

A small extension to the mains was provided to supply the properties situated at Figsbury Rings. The Council also decided to proceed with a scheme to erect a reserve tank at Firs Road, Winterbourne, to provide a supply of water for a limited period to properties in that area in the event of a breakdown at the Booster Station at East Gomeldon.

Regular samples of the raw and treated water from the Newton Tony borehole have been submitted for Chemical and Bacteriological examination, the results being as follows :—

Physical Characters.....	A clear colourless water. No deposit.
CHEMICAL.....	Parts per million.
Reaction.....	Alkaline pH 7.2
Saline and free Ammonia.....	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") Ammonia.....	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 37 degrees C.....	0.03
Chlorides	18
Nitrates (nitric nitrogen).....	2.5
Total Hardness.....	222
(a) Temporary	167
(b) Permanent	55
Metals	Nil
Nitrites (nitrous nitrogen).....	Nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days,
37 degrees C Nilper 100 ml.
Probable number of Bact. coli Nilper 100 ml.

OPINION

Chemical examinations satisfactory. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

BULFORD AND DURRINGTON

This supply has continued to work satisfactorily during the year. Small extensions have been made of this supply to service additional properties on the Council's Housing Estate.

The results of Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of this supply are given below :—

Physical Characters.....A clear colourless water. No deposit
CHEMICAL.....Parts per million
Reaction.....Alkaline pH 7.1
Saline and free Ammonia.....Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") Ammonia.....Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 37
degrees C.....0.10
Chlorides22
Nitrates (nitric nitrogen).....10
Total Hardness.....233
 (a) Temporary149
 (b) Permanent84
Poisonous Metals.....Nil
Nitrites (nitrous nitrogen).....Nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days
37 degrees C Nilper 100 ml.
Probable number of Bact. coli
 (type 1) Nilper 100 ml.

OPINION

Chemical examination satisfactory. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

SHREWTON

This supply has continued to work satisfactorily during the year. Samples of water have been taken regularly for Chemical and Bacteriological examinations, and the results are set out below :—

Physical Characters.....A clear colourless water. No deposit
CHEMICAL.....Parts per million
Reaction.....Alkaline pH 7.5
Saline and free Ammonia.....Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") Ammonia.....Nil

Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 37 degrees C.....	0.03
Chlorides	16
Nitrates (nitric nitrogen).....	10
Total Hardness.....	230
(a) Temporary	161
(b) Permanent	69
Poisonous Metals.....	Nil
Nitrites (nitrous nitrogen).....	Nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37 degrees C	Nil	.....per 100 ml.
Probable number of Bact. coli (type 1)	Nil	.....per 100 ml.

OPINION

Chemical examination satisfactory. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

FLUORIDE CONTENT OF WATER

At the request of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, samples of water were taken from all the Council's supplies, and others which are purchased in bulk for consumption in the District, and submitted for examination to determine the fluoride content.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

AMESBURY

This scheme has worked satisfactorily throughout the year.

Samples of the effluent have been taken regularly during the year and submitted for Bacteriological examination, all proving satisfactory. Samples submitted for Chemical examination have shown this effluent to be of a satisfactory standard.

During the year the work of laying the new sewers in Countess Road, Amesbury, was carried out, and at the end of the year work was well advanced on the construction of the pumping station which is necessary to lift the sewage from this area into the main system.

Small extensions were also made to this system to serve additional properties on the Council's Housing Estate.

BULFORD AND DURRINGTON

This scheme has worked satisfactorily throughout the year.

Some small extensions, to serve the Council's Housing Estate, were made to this system during the year.

SHREWTON

Work proceeded throughout the year on the laying of the sewers to serve this Parish and on the construction of the main disposal works and pumping station. It is hoped that this scheme will be put into operation before the end of 1960.

OTHER SCHEMES

Further consideration was given to the provision of sewerage systems in the Parishes of Figheldean, Winterbourne and Tilshead.

FIGHELDEAN

The Council has decided to proceed with this scheme which, since the commencement of the sewerage scheme for Shrewton, has been considered the top priority, and the sewage will be treated at the existing works at Ratfyn, Amesbury. The Parish of Milston is also to be drained, and the sewers serving this Parish will be connected to the sewer to be laid between Figheldean and its point of connection with the existing sewer at Hackthorn, Durrington.

WINTERBOURNE

The provision of a sewerage scheme was considered by the Council to be so urgent that it was given next priority to the Figheldean scheme. The Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare plans of this proposed scheme, and by the end of the year these had been approved by the County Council and the Winterbourne Parish.

The Sewage Disposal Works for the Winterbourne scheme has been designed to take the future sewage from all Parishes in the Bourne Valley, with the possible exception of Cholderton. When all the works have been completed, a number of small Housing Estate Sewage Disposal plants will become redundant.

TILSHEAD

No definite proposals were made during the year regarding this scheme.

There are two Sewage Disposal Works in Tilshead owned by the War Department to which any sewers laid by the Council might be connected. The War Department Land Agent has advised the Council that there are no local military objections to the sale to the Council of the existing War Department Sewage Works at West Down Camp, and the Council has instructed their Consulting Engineers to ascertain which of these two Sewerage Disposal Works in Tilshead would be more suitable for their purpose. Further consideration of this scheme was deferred pending the receipt of this report.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The use of Moveable Dwellings as housing accommodation showed no sign of decreasing during 1959, and the greatest demand for such accommodation continued to be in and around the Parish of Amesbury. As stated in last year's report, the demand for this form of dwelling

arises partly from the shortage of permanent housing accommodation available for letting, and partly from the drafting into the District of numbers of Service personnel and Government civilian employees who find it convenient and sufficient for their requirements for the time they are likely to remain in the area.

Most of these caravans are stationed on two main sites in Amesbury which are amply provided with the necessary facilities, and the general control exercised by the site operators is satisfactory.

Elsewhere in the District Moveable Dwellings are mostly occupied as single units, and regular inspections have shown conditions to be generally satisfactory.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

The supply of milk in the District has again been satisfactory during the year. Most of the milk consumed in the area is Pasteurised, and is processed at, and supplied from, the Milk Factory situated at Amesbury.

Regular inspections of this establishment have revealed that strict compliance with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations is maintained in all operations connected with the Pasteurisation of milk. One of the most difficult problems to be dealt with in an establishment of this size is to ensure continued compliance with the Regulations in respect of the condition of bottles used for containing milk to be delivered to consumers. The number of bottles used for this purpose makes it necessary for them to be cleansed by machine, and, whilst the process is highly satisfactory in the main, it is inevitable that there should be isolated instances when it will fail due to some extraneous matter having been placed in the bottle. Whilst every effort is made to detect bottles containing foreign matter in order that they may be cleansed individually prior to being placed in the bottle washing machine, the speed at which the operators have to work is, unfortunately, likely to result in the odd bottle escaping detection either at this stage or during its short run from the washing machine to the filling and capping machine. Even should this occur, any roundsman detecting such a bottle has instructions to return it to the establishment. As the result of the efforts made in this direction, the number of complaints received during the year concerning dirty bottles was negligible, and an examination of the offending bottles indicated that their condition was due to their use for purposes other than containing milk. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that proof of the persons responsible for the misuse of milk bottles cannot be determined so that action could be taken against them. Until all milk is put into disposable containers, and this is unlikely to be for some time to come on account of the cost of this type of container, the possibility of the occasional dirty bottle being delivered to the consumer will remain.

During the year 94 samples of bottle washings were submitted for tests, and the majority were found to be of satisfactory standard. Following the receipt of unsatisfactory reports, further visits were made to ascertain the cause.

Regular samples of milk have been taken from all the Registered Distributors in the District, including Producer/Retailers. A total of 233 samples were submitted for the Statutory tests and for Biological examination.

The following table shows the number of samples submitted for these examinations together with the results :—

<i>Designated Raw Milk</i>			<i>Biological Examination</i>			<i>Pasteurised Milk</i>		
<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>	<i>Pass.</i>	<i>Fail.</i>	<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>	<i>Pass.</i>	<i>Fail</i>	<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>	<i>Pass</i>	<i>Fail</i>
82	73	9	82	82	—	69	65	4

When unsatisfactory reports were received in respect of samples of raw milk, the producers were interviewed and advised on methods to ensure cleanliness in production, and repeat samples subsequently proved satisfactory. In no case was it necessary to refer any cases of repeated failures to the Milk Advisory Officer.

Investigations made into the cause of the samples of Pasteurised milk failing the Statutory Test showed that this was due to minor mechanical defects in the plant. These defects had already been detected and rectified by the firm.

It is pleasing to record that, for the first time in three years, no isolation of the organisms of *Brucella Abortus* in the samples submitted was reported.

There is only one Registered Dairy in the District. The number of Registered Milk Distributors and Dealers licensed to sell milk under special designations is shown in the following table :—

Registered Milk Distributors	14
Registered Dairies	1
Dealers licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk....	13
Dealers licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk	10

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

No slaughtering of animals for human consumption takes place within the District, and from enquiries made of Butchers it is obvious that all are satisfied with the arrangements for them to obtain their supplies of meat from the Abattoir in the City of Salisbury where excellent facilities exist for the slaughter, dressing and inspection of all animals intended for this purpose. It is very seldom that a request is received for a further inspection to be made of any meat delivered to the shops in the District, and any subsequent action found necessary is invariably due to a condition which has occurred since the initial inspection of the carcase was made.

There is one licensed Knacker's Yard in the District, and periodic visits have shown the general condition to be satisfactory.

Daily visits have been made to the Poultry Packing Station at Amesbury for the purpose of inspecting the poultry killed, prepared and packed at this establishment. The daily throughput of this Factory was greatly increased as the result of the use of the "line" principle, and this is reflected in the numbers of poultry condemned. The percentage of condemnation in relation to the numbers of birds dealt with is, however, minimal.

A second, but much smaller, establishment is also in use at Figheldean, and regular visits have been made to this.

FOOD PREMISES

The general standard of food premises in the District remains satisfactory, and in a number of instances considerable improvements have been effected.

The number and type of food premises in the area are shown in the following table :—

Hotels and Licensed Premises	37
Grocers	39
Bakers	5
Butchers	8
Cafes and Restaurants	9
Confectionery	17
Greengrocery	2
Fried Fish	3
Fishmongers	1
Poultry Packing Stations	2
	<hr/>
	123
	<hr/>

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

There is no manufacture of Ice-Cream in the District. Routine inspections of the premises registered for the storage and/or sale of Ice-Cream have shown that the Regulations are being compiled with.

The number and type of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows :—

Storage and/or Sale of Ice-Cream	85
Sausage Making	8

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED DURING 1959

The quantity of meat and other food condemned as being unfit for human consumption during 1959 is given below :—

Pork	12½ lb.
Pigs' Plucks 3 No. Weight	16 lb.
Pork Luncheon Meat (Canned)	12 lb.
Corned Beef	6 lb.
Chickens	2287
Poussins	721

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

The periodic inspections made of premises licensed by the Council for the boiling of waste foods have revealed that the requirements of the Order are being observed. The use of this type of food for animal feeding is confined mainly to the smaller establishments, the larger ones preferring to use prepared meal.

One licence was revoked during the year as the premises ceased to be used, and at the end of the year the number of premises licensed by the Council was thirteen.

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1939

This table is enclosed by a request of the Minister of Labour to indicate to Medical Officers of Health the prescribed particulars which are required by Section 128(3) of the Factories Act, 1937, to be furnished in their Annual Reports with respect to matters under Parts I and VIII of that Act which are administered by the District Council. This table, which is not intended to supersede the fuller statement which is desirable in the text of the Report, should be attached as an annex to the Report.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1959 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY IN THE COUNTY OF WILTSHIRE

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1957

PART I OF THE ACT

I—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Written Notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities*	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	59	43	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority § (excluding out - workers' premises)			—	—
Total	59	43	1	—

* To prevent any differences between the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Factories Act, 1937, are enforced by Local Authorities, it is requested that Local Authorities should compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

§ i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 103(1), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

<i>Particulars</i> (1)	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i> (6)
	<i>Found</i> (2)	<i>Remedied</i> (3)	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i> (4)	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i> (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	3	—	1	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of Work</i> (1)	<i>Section 110</i>			<i>Section 111</i>		
	<i>No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 110(1) (c)</i> (2)	<i>No. of cases of default sending lists to the Council</i> (3)	<i>No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists</i> (4)	<i>No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises</i> (5)	<i>Notices served</i> (6)	<i>Prose- cutions</i> (7)
Wearing apparel	} Making etc. } Cleaning and } Washing					
Household linen						
Lace, lace curtains and nets						
Curtains and furni- ture hangings						
Furniture and upholstery						
Electro-plate						
File making						
Brass and brass articles						
Fur pulling						
Iron and steel cables and chains						
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels						
Cart gear						
Locks, latches and keys						
Umbrellas, etc.						
Artificial flowers						

PART VIII OF THE ACT (Continued)

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of Work</i> (1)	<i>Section 110</i>			<i>Section 111</i>		
	<i>No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 110(1) (c)</i> (2)	<i>No. of cases of default sending lists to the Council</i> (3)	<i>No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists</i> (4)	<i>No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises</i> (5)	<i>Notices served</i> (6)	<i>Prose- cutions</i> (7)
Nets, other than wire nets						
Tents Sacks						
Racquet and tennis balls						
Paper bags						
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or par- tially of paper						
Brush making						
Pea picking						
Feather sorting						
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.						
Stuffed toys						
Basket making						
Chocolates and sweetmeats						
Cosaques, Christmas stockings, etc.						
Textile weaving						
Lampshades						
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—

